

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----113148 281203Z /42

O 281148Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6582  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12445

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK  
SUBJECT: NKOMO'S MEETINGS WITH CALLAGHAN AND OWEN

1. ACCOMOANIED BY ZAPU POLITICAL ADVISOR NADZIMBAMUTO, JOSHUA NKOMO MET WITH PM JAMES CALLAGHAN AND FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN IN LONDON ON JULY 28. THE MEETINGS WERE VERY PRIVATE (ONLY PRINCIPALS AND THEIR PRIVATE SECRETARIES WERE PRESENT ON THE BRITISH SIDE) AND PROVIDED THE FIRST OCCASION FOR INTIMATE AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE BRITISH LEADERS AND NKOMO SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.
2. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF THE MEETINGS, WHICH THE FCO CHARACTERIZED AS "FRIENDLY," HAS BEEN GIVEN US BY THE FCO RHODESIA DEOARTMENT (HARRISON). A FULLER ACCOUNT WILL BE CABLED TO HM EMBASSY WASHINGTON LATER TODAY, AFTER CLEARANCE BY THE ORINCIPALS. THE THREE MAIN TOOICS DISCUSSED WERE (A) SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS  
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DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, (B) CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND SAFEGUARDS FOR THE WHITE POOULATION, AND (C) THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

3. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD - NKOMO INSISTED THERE BE A BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND INDICATED HE WAS

PREOARED TO CONTEMRLATE HAVING A "DEFENSE TRIUMVIRATE"  
CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT,  
THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES, AND AN UNSOECIFIED THIRD  
OARTY OLACED UNDER THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER. (THE  
BRITISH INTERPRET NKOMO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE RHODESIAN  
SECURITY FORCES IN THE TRIUMVIRATE AS INDICATIVE OF HIS  
WILLINGNESS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH SMITH UNDER THE PROPER  
CIRCUMSTANCES.) NKOMO EMPHASIZED THAT THERE COULD NOT  
BE SEPARATE ARMED FORCES IN EXISTENCE DURING THE ELECTIO  
PERIOD AND SAID THAT THESE FORCES WOULD HAVE TO BE UNI-  
FIED PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS. OWEN GENTLY FLOATED THE  
IDEA OF AN EXTERNAL FORCE, BUT NKOMO DID NOT RESPOND,  
THEREBY IMOLYING (IN BRITISH OONION) NON-ACCEPTANCE OF  
THE IDEA.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND SAFEGUARDS -  
NKOMO HINTED THAT SOMETHING "ON THE BOTSWANA PATTERN"  
MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT HE SAID HE COULD NOT ADVOCATE  
IT - - IT WOULD HAVE TO BE THRUST UPON HIM. NKOMO  
READILY AGREED THAT ANY CONSTITUTIONAL OACKAGE WOULD  
HAVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS. ON THE  
QUESTION OF ELECTIONS, NKOMO SAID THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD  
NOT NEED A LONG OERIOD OF TIME TO ORGANIZE HIS SUPPORT  
WITHIN ZIMBABWE, AS HE WAS WELL KNOWN THERE; HE CAUTIONED  
OWEN NOT TO BE MISLED BY THE CROWDS TURNED OUT BY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 12445

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MUZOREWA, AS THE MOBS WERE DRAWN BY THE BISHOP, NOT THE POLITICIAN.

5. ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND (ZDF) -  
OWEN EXPLAINED THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE ZDF AND ITS POSSIBLE LINKS WITH A WIDER PACKAGE. NKOMO DID NOT SAY MUCH, BUT HE DID NOT DISAGREE WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND THE WHITE OOOULATION ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN. MADZIMBAMUTO NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBLIGATIONS INCURRED BY THE ILLEGAL REGIME SINCE UDI.

6. OUTLINING HIS IMMEDIATE PLANS, NKOMO SAID HE WAS LEAVING LONDON FOR CUBA ON JULY 28. HE WOULD TRAVEL THENCE TO JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, AND OOSSIBLY GUVANA BEFORE GOING TO THE UNITED STATES. FROM THE US, HE WOULD COME BACK THROUGH LONDON, EN ROUTE TO LAGOS FOR THE ANTI-CONFIDENTIAL

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APARTHEID CONFERENCE. HE OLANNED TO ARRIVE IN LAGOS ON AUGUST 16. NKOMO ADDED THAT HE HOPED NO ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE OF ANY SETTLEMENT PLANS UNTIL AFTER THE COMPLETION OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, UK, (CALLAGHAN, JAMES), (OWEN, DAVID), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)  
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